

# THE CURRENT.

WM. H. MULLANE  
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The following is from the Marion Falcon of Lebanon, Ky. The soldier who wrote the statements is thoroughly worthy of credence, so the Falcon says. He was formerly a newspaper man, and is now connected with the hospital service in Manila. Says he in part:

"The war here is nothing more nor less than an outbreak of A. P. A. fanaticism, military despotism and political knavery. Since coming here the army of occupation has done some evangelizing by teaching children and young girls some of the vilest filth that ever issued from human lips. Prostitutes and venereal diseases are rampant where heretofore such were unknown and the worst of it is that rape has done more than persuasion. (The writer here cites instances of libertinism, on the part of the American soldiery, too shocking for publication.) Is it any wonder that the natives look upon the American soldiers as a devil?"

"But the story does not end here. There is more of it—more that is blacker and more infamous. Continues the writer.

"But the worst of all is the desecration of churches and convents. Thousands of dollars worth of church property—chandeliers, stoles, chalices, crucifixes—are worn around camp as trophies of victory. Priests and nuns are openly insulted on the streets by our religious freedom advocates, and a certain chaplain was caught picking the eyes out of a pair of statues of Our Lady and St. Joseph, under the impression that they were precious stones."

No doubt the United States will sooner or later overcome the rebellion as it is called; but the memory of such brutal and bestial conduct will remain for generations. It will take ship loads of bibles and armies of preachers before the Filipinos will be persuaded to think that the religion professed by their "liberators" is good for anything.

The facts are that few men who are useful in any occupation at home ever go to a war of conquest. It is generally the lazy, shiftless and good for nothing bums, who would rather die than work, who go to war. This is the class who desecrate churches and loot the homes of peaceable people. While it is not the policy of the government to plunder and destroy, it is what war leads to and the Hanna-McKinley crowd is responsible for the war. This outfit first claimed Spain had no right to Cuba or the Philippines because she abused the rebels, so the war was started to help the insurgents; then when Spain was whipped this same mob kept up the war on the insurgents in order to appease the speculators and yellow newspapers.

There seems to be a general misunderstanding concerning the use of the public fountain which requires an explanation. Last spring the railway company shut the water off from the fountain and the management declared no water would ever again be allowed to run through the fountain. This as all know, was regarded as a public calamity and the editor of the CURRENT took the trouble to see Mr. Nichols to find out what was the cause for shutting down on the public. Mr. Nichols stated that people were carrying the water away and by so doing escaping the payment of water rents and purchase of water by the barrel; that if to water the horses of the town and country was to be made the cause for great loss to the company, the water should not be allowed to run through the fountain. Then the CURRENT offered to lease the water and become responsible that it be shut off from the fountain every night at six and started at seven in the morning, besides paying for all repairs, etc., and also not allow water to be carried away. Since going into this agreement it has been found almost impossible to fully carry it out, because many persist in stealing water away in jugs, pails, kegs, etc. Unless the rules can be followed the fountain will be closed to the public and it is to be hoped that all will see the necessity of using the water properly. Horses working to vehicles or being used under the saddle and people may drink at the fountain. During the hot weather a small stream was allowed to run some nights but now that winter is coming on no water will be in the fountain at night; for there are a few who will carry it away if it is allowed to run at night. People are cautioned not to drive stock to the fountain or carry water away or the whole town will certainly suffer the loss of the greatest blessing we now have. The printed cards posted at the fountain were torn down and every effort to do right was met with counter effort to apparently endeavor to aggravate the railway company into shutting off the water.

The city schools opened Monday with Dr. A. J. Emerson as principal; Prof. McMullen, grammar department; Prof. Robt. Intermediate, Miss Joie

Witt primary. The schools are undoubtedly in good hands and will be a success. That most important feature discipline, is fully represented. The teachers run the school and scholars who "don't like the teacher" must walk a chalk line or quit. The parents should now endeavor to impress the proper respect for teacher on their children, when a mutual love will grow up and the scholars of Carlsbad can look back in after years to at least one profitable and pleasant school year. The CURRENT hopes to be able at the close of this term to record a very profitable session for the scholars. In the language of one pupil, "the teachers know their business" and all the pupils need is to obey and they will be sure to improve in their studies.

The happiest man in the land today, says an exchange, is the successful farmer. He sits contentedly under his own vine and fig tree, undisturbed by the maddening noises of the great city. Banks fail, railroads go into the hands of the receivers, booming towns collapse, all business stagnates. But the wise farmer can snap his fingers at all these things. He is monarch of all he surveys on his broad acres. And the honesty of his boys and the purity of his girls is guarded against temptation and in them he is giving the country its best womanhood and manhood. The farmer is to be envied and if he is not contented with his lot he is lacking in wisdom.

The Standard Oil company, through its agent, the Continental Oil company, is levying a heavy tax upon New Mexico consumers of coal oil. Of course this must be done in order that

him the second he pulled the trigger. Hevent on back shot caught me in the right arm, which naturally dropped useless from my gun. I then fired holding the gun like a revolver, with my left hand but only wounded him slightly, if I had seen him a second before he fired, or he had hit me anywhere else, even in the heart, I could have killed Harrington. Twice I thought of killing the engineer and now I am—sorry I didn't.

"Well I guess that breaks up the old gang."

He said the gang comprised six men including himself, until the night the Santa Fe train was held up near Grant Ariz., about a year ago. In the defense of the train by its crew, Billy Carver, one of Ketchum's most reckless retainers, was shot dead. This is the first time the identity of the dead robber has been made public.

Ketchum then described how the gang had robbed the same train that was held up south of Pecos on the night of Sept. 8, '97, at exactly the same place at which the last robbery occurred. He said the crime was of his own planning, but that he took no active part in it.

After leaving Pecos "Black Jack" went to Alamosa, this state where he inspected two banks. He also inspected the Rio Grande narrow gauge road, near there, with a view of train robbery, but abandoned all three projects.

"The ground is so soft around there," said he, "the boys could be tracked easily."

From Alamosa the robber chief went to the rendezvous of his gang in Arizona, where he received \$800, his share of the spoils taken from the train near Pecos. Ketchum told the officers that he did the brain work for the gang, and that the

## SURFACE OF ROADS.

Only the Hardest Stone Should Be Used For Top Layer.

The advantages to be derived from good stone roads are manifold that all other materials should be discarded where tough road stone is available for their construction and maintenance. But it is greater economy to use earth or gravel than to go to the expense of macadamizing roads with too soft, too brittle or rotten material. Many use this because it is easily prepared. A road should never be surfaced with anything short of trap rock or serpentine. Inferior material may often be used with impunity for the first layer, or foundation, but even this should be selected with great care.

The evils resulting from improper construction of stone roads are even greater than those from the use of improper material. Macadam never intended that a heterogeneous conglomeration of stone and mud should be called a macadam road. Neither did he intend that the name should be applied to roads constructed of large and small stones mixed together and spread upon the surface. The surface of a road built in this manner is constantly disturbed by the larger stones, which work to the surface and which are knocked hither and thither by the wheels of vehicles and the feet of animals. Such methods of construction cannot be too severely condemned.

The first course of foundation of the macadam road can be made of the coarsest stones from the crusher, provided that they are of uniform size and that each stone shall weigh not over six ounces and will pass through a 2 1/2 inch ring. Where the road is to be eight inches thick this foundation should be four inches after rolling. If the road is to be of greater thickness than eight inches, the foundation should be composed of two courses separately rolled.

After having thoroughly rolled this foundation apply enough ground stone or coarse sand to fill the interstices. This should be wetted and thoroughly rolled until a hard and uniform surface is obtained.

Upon this foundation the surface material should be placed, wetted and thoroughly rolled. The stones of which this surface material is composed should be if possible crushed to a size of one inch in diameter; but if that is not possible they should never be larger in diameter than 1 1/2 inches. Ground stone screenings should then be spread upon the surface, wetted and rolled as before, until a hard smooth surface is the result.

## STATE AID FOR ROADS.

What the System Has Done For the Farmers of New Jersey.

Road building by state aid is steadily increasing in New Jersey, says Engineering News. The principal construction has been in the direction of roads four, six and eight inches deep, as experience has shown that properly drained earth is a sufficiently good foundation for any road superstructure, and all that is wanted is enough "metal" on the surface to stand up under the wear until the roads have to be resurfaced. This happens when the roads are subjected to two or three inches of wear. To cheaply maintain the surface an application of coarse sand or gravel and loam containing oxide of iron will keep the surface in good condition and make a soft cushion for the feet of horses.

The authorities of New Jersey have decided on roads 10, 12 and 14 feet wide in the country and 16 feet wide



TRAFFIC ROAD, NEW JERSEY.

In the towns as the limits for state aid. If the citizens wish wider roads, they must do the remaining work at their own cost. The roads are now costing from 20 to 70 cents per square yard, depending on the locality, availability of stone, etc.

Before the advent of stone roads the leading highways, not graveled, were almost a bed of sand, and teams carried 40 or 50 baskets of produce to Philadelphia markets with difficulty. Farmers shipped produce mainly by railroads and boats as being the cheaper method. The farmers now cart to market instead of sending by boat and return with from three to five tons of manure, and thus effect a large saving. When carting an average load of 150 baskets, the farmer saves by the use of his own team about \$10 per day. He also saves a commission of 10 per cent, or about \$8 on 150 baskets, by marketing his own produce.

## Some Kansas Streets.

"We don't think we have ever known the roads to be quite so bad on this part of the Lord's footstool, as they were last spring. An empty wagon is a load for a team on any of the unpaved streets," says the Quosmo (Kan.) Republican.

## Road Briefs.

Would you be willing to have the public judge you by the character of the road in front of your house? Call your neighbors together and devise some way for making the roads good in your vicinity.

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People Want!

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the Standard Oil company officials and stockholders may be paid exorbitant salaries and magnificent dividends. The vice-president of the Standard Oil company, for instance, receives a salary of \$200,000 per year, or four times as much as the president of the United States. But withal, there is no good reason why the people of New Mexico should not help themselves in this matter. If the laws in force at present are not strong enough to make this gigantic monopoly come to time, more stringent laws can be passed at the next session of the territorial legislative assembly. Solicitor General Bartlett is making a strong effort towards the enforcement of the law relating to the matter. It is to be hoped his efforts, which meet with the approval of the people regardless of politics, will meet with success. The Standard Oil company should be compelled to respect the rights of the people, although it thinks that the people and the consumers of coal oil and kindred products throughout the width and breadth of this country have no rights that need be respected by it and acts accordingly.—Alamogordo News.

**Curry's Recruits.**

Lieut. George Curry, of Alamogordo, has enlisted recruits for the 11th regiment in the Philippine islands. He would have secured more men but only 21 blanks were sent him. Some of the recruits are from Chavez county, some from Otero county and the remainder live at El Paso. Harry Walt nephew of Mrs. T. H. Catron, is one of them.

With the exception of three whose names are withheld, the following compose the squad: Okey H. Frye, G. L. Black, Lewis Sinder, Wm. McCarty, Leonard Rasmussen, Herbert W. Browning, Joseph Laney, John Kelley, Abraham Allen, Paul Warren, John W. Maxwell, Arthur Clark, Harry H. Owen, Allen Thelbert, James T. Witt, Thos. E. Pondergrass, James T. Hapley, C. Gooch, T. E. Bush, H. Zorras, Harry Walt, Jefferson P. Stubbledin, Harry Goodman, Charles Earls, Noah Osborn, James McDonald, Monte P. Whaley, Jas. L. McCurry, Edward G. Piper.—New Mexico.

## Planned Crimes for Six Years.

By his own confessions, "Black Jack" Tom Ketchum has been for half a dozen years the brains of a gang to which must be credited all or nearly all of the train and postoffice robberies which occurred within that period in this state and the south west.

Special Agent Reno, of the Colorado & Southern railroad, and Sheriff Stewart of Eddy county, New Mexico, heard his confessions. Reno arrived in Denver last night. "Black Jack" began his revelations by telling about the crimes that brought about his downfall.

"I was holding down the engineer and Freeman with my Winchester," said he, "when Harrington fired at me. I shot

others lined up on his keeping out of active operations, so that his identity might not be betrayed.

The names of the original band of "Black Jack" robbers with one exception are, Tom and Sam Ketchum, Billy Carver, Dave A. Kiss and G. Franks. Special Agent Reno says he will very shortly have the unnamed robber in custody, therefore he is withholding his name. Atkins is at large. He is accused of murder at Knickerbocker, Texas, in 1898. Franks is also at large. Carver and Sam Ketchum are dead.

Black Jack spoke slightly of Berry Ketchum, his respectable brother at San Angelo, Texas, adding:

"If I die don't give him my body. Berry me with Sam. He was the best of the family."

He also mentioned a sister Mrs. A. E. Duncan of Knickerbocker, Tex., saying that she had always been his good friend.—Denver News.

a business  
man...

Should have good  
stationery—  
it helps  
his business—  
and that is what  
the patrons of  
The Current know.  
Are you in  
the list?

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